

# HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held via Zoom on 1st December 2020

## Present

**Members:** Cllr Harry Baumer (Sub-committee Chair), Diana Baumer (Hon Secretary), Chris Flower (Councillor), Anna West, Jan Sellick, Caroline Howarth (Parishioners)

**Guests -** Tracy Ebbrell, Stephen Brown (parishioners, YCE), Gilly and Chris Bray (Parishioners), Mike Reece (Councillor)

Harry Baumer welcomed Tracy and Stephen to the meeting as representatives from Yealm Community Energy, and Chris and Gilly Bray as interested Parishioners. He explained that the sub-committee was not run under Parish Council rules and meetings were informal.

1. **Apologies** were received from John Sherrell and Andrew Hollett
2. **Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.** The Minutes were accepted as correct.
3. **Matters Arising.**
  - a) **Books on climate and environmental issues.** HB has costed the books on the list and approached Sue Price with a view to having them available at the Monday library morning. Sue reported that space is an issue as she has too many books and suggested housing them in the entrance room. MR, who has taken on the responsibility for the Reading Rooms in his capacity as Parish Councillor, said the entrance room is very damp. He suggested storing the books on a moveable metal trolley which would allow them to be moved and stored away from the damp walls. JS reported that only a limited number of people attended the Monday Library. The group discussed other ways of publicising the books such as in the pub, shop, and Holbeton News. It was also suggested we ask the school about any relevant books they might want in the school. **Action: DB.**

HB will seek approval for purchasing the books from the parish council. **Action: HB**
  - b) **Low energy lighting in parish council premises.** HB suggested that MR and AH discuss this together for the Reading Rooms. MR will check the pendant lights, which he believes are low energy. **Action: AH, MR**
  - c) **Parish wide survey of home and business lighting.** CB & GB have offered to assist with the layout of the survey which they believe is a bit wordy in its present form. It was agreed that they should edit and format it and then submit it for approval. It was agreed this should include contact telephone numbers for people to ring for advice. CB stated that people would need both information and a helping hand with making changes to their lighting and electricity supplies. **Action: GB, CB.**

TE wondered whether there were any initiatives providing free light bulbs and other energy saving devices. It was agreed that the survey was the beginning of a project to encourage parishioners to reduce their energy use and expenditure.
  - d) **Holbeton News update and tips of the month.** JS was congratulated on her “environmental tip of the month” which promoted some discussion. For the next edition HB & AH are looking at electricity use. AH is looking at “standby on equipment” and HB is using a smart meter to look at electricity consumption of fridges and freezers. **Action: HB, AH**

It was suggested that the committee purchase a small number of smart meters so that people can see how much electricity they are using for different appliances. People could be taught how to interpret them and they could then make savings. **Action: HB**
  - e) **Funding to support the environmental action plan and the criteria for spending decisions.** HB explained the current situation for the benefit of the visitors to the meeting. There is £11,106 Section 106 money from Creacombe Solar Farm, to be shared between 3 parishes, which HB is currently trying to locate. TE agreed to action this. **Action: TE**

The money for Holbeton Parish is to be ring fenced and used purely for environmental initiatives under the auspices of the sub-committee. HB reminded the group of the existing criteria for spending S106 funds and the proposed additional criteria, previously circulated. The committee approved the proposed criteria.

- f) **Parishioners forum to provide suggestions and advice to the climate change sub-committee.** AW reported that she was meeting with a new neighbour to discuss a Facebook page and to discuss other ways of broadcasting information across the community. **Action: AW**
- g) **Briefing on Yealm Community Energy.** There are 3 people in the parish who are involved with YCE. TE agreed to take forward a public zoom meeting in the spring for them to talk to interested parish residents about YCE. CB reminded the meeting that Parliament is in the process of considering a change in the law (the Local Electricity Bill) to allow smaller energy producers such as YCE to act as electricity suppliers.
- h) **South Hams District Council Climate Change and Biodiversity Community Board.** HB and Stephen Brown had put their names forward to sit on the board but were both unsuccessful.
- i) **Proposed wildflower area by the Reading Rooms** We have received permission in principle from the PCC to reseed the area in front of the Reading Rooms. Anthony Mildmay-White has asked for a plan of action from HB. DB has costed the different options for wild flower seed mix and looked at options for notice boards which are quite expensive – approx £500 for a glass fronted display board on legs. DB will draw up plans for submission to the PCC. **Action: DB**

It was suggested that we might use somebody locally to make a notice board more cheaply. HB will pursue this. **Action: HB**

DB reported that she had been into the school and had talked with the head teacher, Chris Rickard, about initiatives that could involve the school. He has some initiatives within the school grounds that he is hoping to progress.

- j) **Rebel Botanists** HB explained about the field at Luson Cross farmed by John Sherrell which is an old hay meadow and rich in wildflower species. It was surveyed a number of years ago and it is something that could be done again perhaps involving the school, and used as a means of interesting parishioners in local wild flowers. This was raised with Chris Rickard when DB did a School Governors' visit last week. There are a number of people in the parish who are knowledgeable. This would need to be undertaken in the Spring/Summer. **Action: DB**

#### 4. Other Matters

- a) **DCC zero carbon plan consultation.** A preliminary plan has been produced for consultation. HB thought this should be discussed in January well within the consultation period. He will draw attention to this in his January piece for Holbeton News, and encouraged all to study the proposals. **Actions: HB, all**
- b) **On street residential charge point bid.** Holbeton is one of 37 parishes in Devon who have been chosen to have public charge points installed for community use. AH has identified the Village Hall car park as a location for the charging point. AW cited an article in The Guardian but also their own experiences of travelling to and from Poole, which highlighted some of the problems encountered with charging points. HB also explained about a community car share scheme that is operating in Devon.
- c) **Parish carbon footprint.** Correspondence about this was circulated with the Agenda for information.
- d) **Feedback from Paul Hardy.** Noted.

#### 5. AOB

**Holbeton Parish Council Climate Emergency webpage.** CH raised a question posed by her husband Lance who oversees the website. He receives a lot of information from outside the Parish e.g. South Hams District Council. He wants to know whether he should be the final arbitrator as to what is put onto the site. CF stated that most of the information from SHDC is in the public domain so there isn't a problem with that information. HB felt we needed to be careful not to overload the website as some of the material received by the parish council needed editing. It was agreed this should be on the Agenda at the next meeting.

#### 6. Date of next meeting, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7.30pm